

PATENT

Docket No. 235.00170101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Clark et al.)
Serial No.: 09/497,967)
Confirmation No.: 8124)
Filed: February 4, 2000)
For: DIAGNOSTIC AND PROTECTIVE ANTIGEN GENE SEQUENCES OF
ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS

Group Art Unit: 1645
Examiner: P. Iesha Fields

15/B
honda
1/22/03

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The Office Action mailed January 2, 2002, has been received and reviewed. Entry of the following amendment, and consideration of the accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 8, 9, and 16, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 36 and 37 and amend claims 3-6, 10, 11, 14, 18 and 23.

The new and amended claims are provided below in clean form. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, amended claims are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate changes made (for convenience, all pending claims, including those added hereby, are provided in Appendix A).

3. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide fragment having a nucleotide sequence that encodes an antigenic portion of an i-antigen polypeptide having amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:7, said antigenic portion of the i-antigen polypeptide comprising at least about 60 amino acids and being capable of inducing an immune response in a fish against *I. multifiliis*.

31